

432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 650, 7th Postmaster N.Y.C.
February 10, 1944

Hija, Folks,-

Just a few lines.- Have been very, very busy lately- and I'm tireder than all got out!- Shall we say- been away on business- and living on my wits?-

Got home today and found quite a bit of mail.- Both V-mails and a regular letter written by Ma!- Guess I really rate, huh? So here I am- dashing off a few lines- then going to cook a couple of eggs and then to sack! Don't know for sure but got a sneaking idea I'm to go on a trip tomorrow, too, so need all the rest I can get.-

Saw a very pretty sight today- and one I wish I had a picture of. I'll get one of it before I leave for home.- but

2!

from present indications - will have ample time for that! - I flew right over Mt. Vesuvius - I mean right over it, too. - Have often seen it, but today decided to get a real look at it so passed within a hundred feet of the crater itself! - Quite an awe inspiring sight - and a pretty one, too! - It's funny, having read of all these places - and seeing them too. - Often times we never think anything about it, but at others, we go deliberately out of our way to satisfy our curiosity. -

Mt. Vesuvius must be about 4000' high - not near so big as Mt. Etna - and the crater itself is actually, not quite so big as might be imagined. - Several hundred feet down the slope there is a sorta cup ^{pan} arrangement - not noticeable from the ground - and all about the "saucer" the rock seems to be smoking. - The crater itself emits

3.!

a belch of flame ever so often and is always smoking. - at night you can see the red glow of it for miles and see the tongue of flame shoot out as it belches. - It has spells - sometimes more fierce than others. ~~to~~ the night I saw it - people said it was quiet - at that time we could only see the glow of it! - Again, it's a case where nature makes man made things look inconspicuous! - The view I had from above, looking down in it, is unusual, and I guess of the millions who have seen it - there are only the airmen who can get the real chance!

Am enclosing a couple of ~~at~~ snap-shots one of the fellows took. Can't see much of "me", but if you really look hard - I'm there! - one is taken in front of the Red Cross Club in Tunis as we sat in a truck waiting to go "home". I'm the one on the right - (nearest the curb & camera). The other one was

4/1 taken in the Kasbar or Medina (native
quartre). I hope you can tell which is
me without my pointing out. - The kids
are Arabs who followed me around. - Ed
Bigelow took the picture. - I had just
taken one of him taking this. - It was
so funny to see him (He's about 6'4")
surrounded with these kids. - It's unusual
to see the Arabs without the Arabic dress.
Guess these kids get most of their clothes
from the French + U. S. of the city. - They
are a better class, tho, for as I recall, -
they had just gotten out of school - where
most of them were go. They usually start
out as mere labies - learning their father's
trade, if any. -

Well. - It's off to bed - or at least
to the "stove" with me and cook some
eggs, - so 'bye for now & Lots of
Love,
Frank

Keep 'em crossed!